

## Claims

1.-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) A web server comprising software modules, wherein at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for providing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access a transport layer.

12. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to a communication network.

13. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

14. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules themselves and for communication between the software modules and components outside the web server.

15. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein Internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules themselves and for communication between the software modules and components outside the web server.

16. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server is adapted to configure and administrate the software modules.

17. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein the web server is adapted to configure and administrate the software modules.

18. (new) The web server according to Claim 14, wherein the web server is adapted to configure and administrate the software

modules.

19. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

20. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

21. (new) The web server according to Claim 14, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

22. (new) The web server according to Claim 16, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

23. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet using a firewall.

24. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet using a firewall.

25. (new) The web server according to Claim 14, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet using a firewall.

26. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser, wherein the web browser is used as a control and monitoring system.

27. (new) The web server according to Claim 12, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser, wherein the web browser is used as a control and monitoring system.

28. (new) The web server according to Claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a real-time operating system.

29. (new) An automation system comprising a web server having software modules, wherein at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for providing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access a transport layer.

30. (new) A computer program product comprising a web server having software modules, wherein at least a first software module comprises a first mechanism for providing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access a transport layer.